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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 75

half cents cheaper with 87 with ethanol, compared to 87 without ethanol. We believe that as you amortize those costs up-front it will actually get wider than that. So I believe that retailers will push this 87 octane with ethanol and allow a cleaner fuel and a less expensive fuel to consumers here in the state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Bruning, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment and its action of further delaying what this bill does. Last year, I had the pleasure of standing on this floor and pointing out that it was a rare moment, a rare day when we could see Senator Chambers and big oil walking hand in hand down the center aisle. Lucky for us, here we are again--Senator Chambers fighting for big oil while the rest of us fight for farmers, the corn markets. You know, if this state, if we were in West Virginia, South Carolina, and we were talking about tobacco, how to increase the markets for tobacco, there wouldn't even be a discussion. It would sail through that Legislature so fast, and measures have to help those markets. If we were in Hawaii talking about pineapples, you think we'd be worrying about the things we're worrying about today? I don't think so. This is Nebraska. We're a farm state. This is corn we're talking about here, our biggest crop, and we're trying to increase the markets for it. We need to get this bill moving as quickly as we can and, specifically, I think the arguments being made on the other side don't hold water. Williams has said that there will be plenty of 85 octane available to Nebraska the moment we want it, plenty of it available. It will come streaming through the pipe the moment we want it. Pair it with ethanol and you've got 87 as your lowest grade. Now that doesn't mean that has to be the only 87 octane grade at those stations. They can have 87 ethanol made with the 85 octane plus the ethanol to make an 87 grade, or they can have an 87...an 87 grade regular unleaded. They can have them both there. So there is no...Senator Chambers says that we will...this will be the end of regular unleaded at 87 octane. That's not true. Stations can offer both. If they have three pumps then they can offer a premium at